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RIP-ROARING RODEO

Jasper County Fair kicks off festivities (and cowboys) with buckin' broncos, barrel racing and more



Christopher Braunschweig/Newton News

Cowboys and cowgirls entertained a packed horse arena during the Jasper County Fair Rodeo and Ty Carlson Memorial Bull Ride on July 15 at the county fairgrounds in Colfax.

Whoa, Nelly!

Fast action keeps fairgrounds safe after cow got loose

By Jamee A. Pierson
Newton News

Quick thinking helped to corral a cow on the loose Saturday at the Jasper County Fair. Several people jumped into action to get the cow back to safety with only a few scrapes and rope burns to show.

Jasper County Fair At-Large Director Reed Hiemstra was one of the people who tracked down the animal and helped make the situation safe for all those on the grounds.

"We just make sure we shut all gates and do what we can to try and get the animal corralled safely for it and us," Hiemstra said. "It ran back behind one of the buildings and trapped itself. We got ahold of the halter and got it tied up until we could get the trailer."

The animal was then loaded up and headed back home.

"Some animals don't like to be moved to different places and they react differently," Hiemstra said. "When I was little and in 4H I had an animal that drug me around everyday at home, but when I got to the fair she was fine. Some animals are fine at home but you move them to a new environment and they don't like it."

COW | 2A

Helping a new friend

Friendship Livestock Show back in fourth year at the Jasper County Fair

By Jamee A. Pierson
Newton News

A favorite event at the Jasper County Fair, the Friendship Livestock Show took to the ring Saturday afternoon. The inclusive activity pairs kids with special needs alongside fair participants to show livestock together.

Started by Jasper County Fair Queen Superintendent Codi DeBruin five years ago, the event is in its fourth year after taking 2020 off.

"Five years ago I had an idea that I got from a Texas county fair. I reached out to them and they took the time to talk to me about how they do their version," DeBruin said. "I called one of the fair directors and asked if this was something I could do. I went to a fair board meeting and

pitched the idea. They said go ahead and put me into the schedule."

Each year the response to the event has been great with new people participating along with volunteers and kids coming back to experience it again. Two of the participants, Grace and Thomas Russell, have been to all but one year of the event.

"This is their third year. They really like it," Nicole Russell, Grace and Thomas' mother, said. "It is fun to see them interact with other kids and learn something else from kids that are their age that are doing things they wouldn't normally do."

Work begins to organize the Friendship Livestock Show in the spring.

FRIENDSHIP | 2A



Jamee A. Pierson/Newton News

Thomas Russell leads his goat during the Friendship Livestock Show at the Jasper County Fair.

JCARL building to become training facility for sheriff's office

Building will be open to other departments across county for training opportunities

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

The former Jasper County Animal Rescue League building, which is owned by the county, will be renovated into a training facility for the nearby sheriff's office.

Following the regularly scheduled board meeting on June 27, sheriff John Halferty and sergeant Tracy Cross met with the county supervisors to discuss their proposal for the building. The sheriff's office staff and other first responder units throughout

the county have struggled to find places to train for years.

By having a year-round facility devoted to interior and exterior trainings, Cross said it would provide law enforcement officials opportunities to utilize all of their tools and test themselves in a variety of different scenarios. For instance,



Halferty

breach tools like rams or sledge hammers cannot feasibly be used on personal property.

"A lot of properties (used in the past) they ask that you don't damage anything. They don't want you shooting in the house with stun guns either because it can damage a window or a wall. Then we have to clean that stuff up or pay for it," Cross said, noting the JCARL building would be a marked building facility.

Which would offset many liability concerns

TRAINING | 3A

Fine free! Newton Public Library no longer charging youth for overdue books

Library director says fines are not worth denying access to services

By Christopher Braunschweig
Newton News

Newton Public Library is no longer going to charge children and teens overdue fines for late books, children's DVDs and STEM kits.

In a press release July 13, the library staff and its board of trustees announced that overdue fines go against the Newton Public Library's mission state-

ment: "A community resource encouraging lifelong learning." These fines are a hindrance to its mission and "are not worth denying access to library services" for youth.

Which means children's and teen collection items that become overdue can be brought back to the book-drop or circulation desk with no penalty.

Currently, the checkout system at Newton Public Library notifies patrons of when books are due. The library will continue to notify patrons via email three days before the due date, three days and 14 days after the

FINES | 3A







WHERE IT'S AT

Calendar.....5A
Classifieds.....8A
Comics.....6A

Puzzles.....6A
Local Sports.....7A
Obituaries.....5A

Opinion.....4A
Community News.....5A

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			
73 60	82 62	83 66	80 62

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